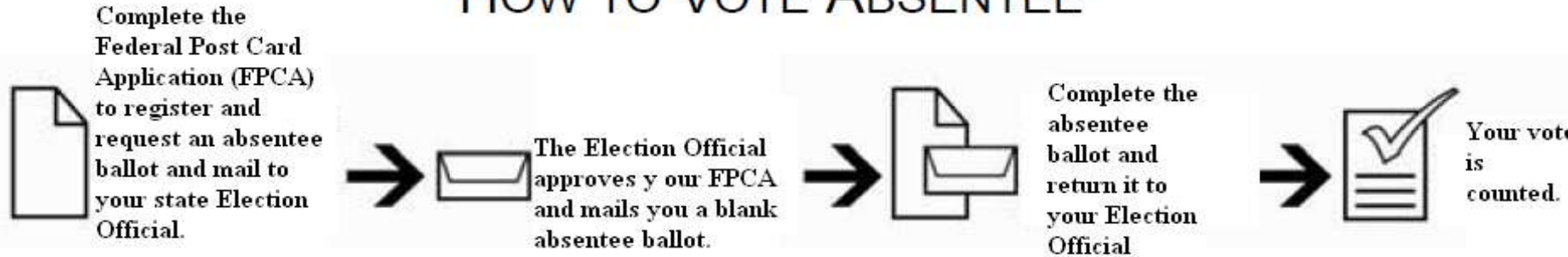


## HOW TO VOTE ABSENTEE



During the 2012 election cycle, a number of important offices will be decided by voters, including:

- ✓ The offices of U.S. President and Vice President
- ✓ 33 seats in the U.S. Senate
- ✓ 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- ✓ Governorships in 11 States and 2 U.S. territories
- ✓ State and local offices
- ✓ Ballot questions and referenda

MYTH: Absentee ballots are not counted unless it is a close race.

FACT: All valid absentee ballots are counted regardless of the closeness of the race.

States differ as to when they count absentee ballots. Many States require absentee ballots to be received by Election Day so that they can be counted along with the in-person votes.

Some States accept absentee ballots after Election Day. In these cases, the final outcome of the election would not be certified until all absentee ballots received by the State's deadline are counted.



EVERY VOTE COUNTS! Several recent elections have been decided by a margin of victory of less than 0.1%.

Election	Margin of Victory
2008 – Minnesota U.S. Senate	312 votes
2005 – Virginia Attorney General	323 votes
2004 – Washington Governor	133 votes
2000 – Florida Electoral Votes (U.S. Presidential election)	537 votes
2000 – New Mexico Electoral Votes (U.S. Presidential election)	366 votes

The *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* of 1986 requires U.S. States and territories to allow U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories the right to vote. This covers an estimated 6 million voters worldwide.

1. Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.
2. Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction with the member.
3. U.S. citizens residing outside the United States and its territories.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, or FVAP, is charged with providing assistance and outreach to U.S. citizens covered under the Act (*UOCAVA*).

FVAP's **purpose** is to:

1. Inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote.
2. Protect and enhance the integrity of the electoral process at the Federal, State, and local levels.
3. Promote efficiency and effectiveness in administering *UOCAVA*.

To accomplish this, FVAP's **immediate objective** is to:

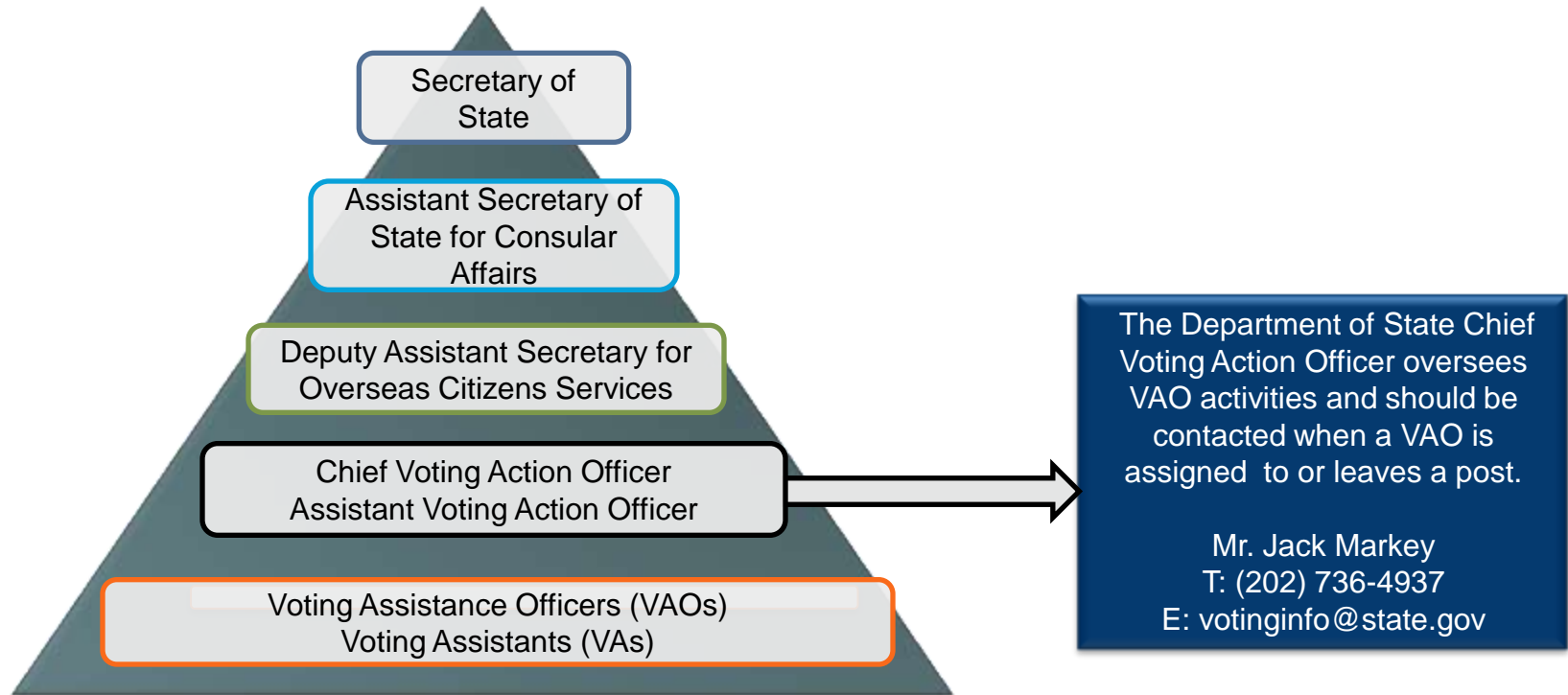
Bring *UOCAVA* voting participation and success rates to equal or greater than general population rates by:

- ✓ Increasing registration/absentee ballot request success rate.
- ✓ Increasing absentee ballot cast rate.
- ✓ Increasing Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot success rate.

**GOAL:** To ensure that citizens covered under *UOCAVA* understand how to apply to register to vote and vote absentee.

Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) play an important role within the Department of State's voting assistance program.

## Key Members in the Department of State Voting Assistance Program



**Your Role:**  
**Become familiar with the two forms unique to *UOCAVA* voters:**

## The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

The image shows the top portion of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form, specifically the instructions section. It includes numbered steps for completing the form, a privacy act statement, and a barcode at the bottom right.The image shows the middle portion of the FPCA form, which is the main request section. It contains fields for personal information, current address, and a section for requesting an absentee ballot, with checkboxes for various options.

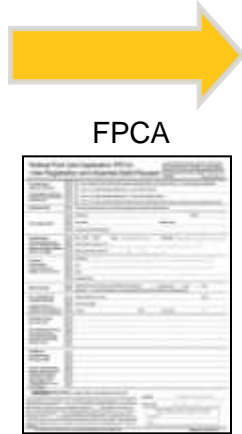
## The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The image shows the top portion of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) form, specifically the voter's declaration section. It includes fields for personal information and a section for the voter to declare their eligibility and intent to vote.The image shows the bottom portion of the FWAB form, which is the official ballot section. It contains two large columns for writing in the names of candidates for various offices, with instructions on how to write the names.

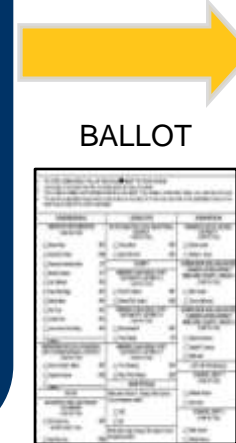
**The following slides will outline how these forms are used in the *UOCAVA* absentee voting process.**

# How Do *UOCAVA* Citizens Vote?

Step 1: A *UOCAVA* citizen completes the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to apply to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. The completed FPCA is submitted to the applicant's local election official.



Step 2: The local election official reviews the submitted FPCA. After verifying eligibility, the local election official sends the applicant an absentee ballot.



Step 3: The applicant receives the absentee ballot, votes the ballot, and returns it to the local election official to be counted.

**Note:** If applicants have not received an absentee ballot by 30 days before the election, they should complete and submit the **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)** to ensure that their vote is received in time to be counted.





# Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

By filling out the FPCA, UOCAVA voters can:

1. Apply to register to vote.
2. Request an absentee ballot.
3. Update a mailing address and/or other contact information.

UOCAVA citizens should submit an FPCA:

1. Once a year.
2. Anytime they need to update their contact information.

**Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)**  
**Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request**

A quicker, easier to complete, electronic version of this form is also available on FVAP.gov. For any questions about this form, consult your Voting Assistance Officer or the Voting Assistance Guide available in hard copy or on FVAP.gov. Please print in black ink.

**Classification**  
Make only 1 selection.  
(In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form.)

☐ I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty O&G. ☐ I am their spouse or dependent.  
☐ I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I intend to return.  
☐ I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I do not intend to return.  
☐ I am a U.S. citizen otherwise granted military/veterans' voting rights under State law (check the Voting Assistance Guide).

**Political Party**  
To vote in primary elections, your State may require you to specify a political party.

**Your legal name**  
Last name \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_  
First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle name \_\_\_\_\_  
Previous name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification**  
Some States require your full name. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.

Sex ☐ M ☐ F Race \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
State Driver's License or ID \_\_\_\_\_  
O&G Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information**  
Include international prefixes. No DOX number.

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Ballot receipt**  
I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, by: ☐ Email/Online ☐ Mail ☐ Fax  
(Mark more than 1, if an order of preference; be sure complete contact information is provided above.)

**U.S. address for voting purposes**  
Usually your last U.S. residence. See instructions.

Street Address, room/suite \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town/Village \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Address where you live now**  
This is different from above. Your voting materials will be sent here, unless you specify a forwarding address in Block 8.

Street Address, room/suite \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town/Village \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional requirements for your State**  
Such as, mail forwarding address, postmark/premark, or other State required information. See your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.

**Affirmation (REQUIRED):** I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:  
I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen (temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., or I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age or older by the date of the election, eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or had my voting rights have been otherwise restricted. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. My signature and date below indicate when I completed this document. The information on this form is true and conforms to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement or omission in this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ (Print last name, sign, and surname)  
**Today's date** \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

This information is for official use only. No information should be pre-printed on this form. (Revised Form 76, June 2010)

- PLEASE CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION INFO ON LINE!**

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot</h2>	
<b>President/Vice President:</b>	
<b>U.S. Senator(s):</b>	
<b>U.S. Representative/Delegate**/Resident Commissioner*:</b>	
<p>* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.</p> <p>** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.</p>	
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Addendum</h3>	
<p>Some states allow the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the Voting Assistance Guide or F-100/guide to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.), and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for which you wish to vote. You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.</p>	
<b>Office / Ballot Initiative</b>	<b>Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Vote</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; min-height: 380px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; min-height: 380px;"></div>

The FPCA and FWAB were recently redesigned in an effort to reduce some of the common mistakes made when completing the forms.

Some offices may still have the older versions in stock—these versions are still valid and will continue to be accepted and processed by election officials.

## Old FPCA and FWAB

The image shows two pages of the old Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) forms. The forms are densely packed with text and checkboxes, making them difficult to read and fill out. The layout is cluttered, with many small boxes and lines for information. The text is small and hard to distinguish, leading to potential confusion and errors when completing the forms.

## Current FPCA and FWAB

The image shows two pages of the current Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) forms. The forms are redesigned to be more user-friendly and easier to read. The layout is cleaner, with larger text and more prominent checkboxes. The forms are organized into clear sections, making it easier for voters to find the information they need and complete the application or ballot. The current forms are designed to reduce common mistakes and improve the overall voting experience.

**The instructions for completing the FPCA and FWAB differ across States**, so it is important to check the FVAP website *Voting Assistance Guide* to ensure you complete and submit the form correctly.

- ✓ For example, some States may require the applicant to provide a full Social Security Number, while other States may require a driver's license or State identification number.
- ✓ The *Voting Assistance Guide* also includes State-specific deadlines for voter registration, absentee ballot requests, and ballot returns.



*FVAP recommends VAOs use the online Voting Assistance Guide available at <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/guide.html>.*

*Federal Post  
Card Application  
(FPCA)*

**Should be completed by:**

All UOCAVA voters once a year and any time they need to update their contact information.

**Allows voters to:**

Apply to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and update their contact information.

*Federal Write-In  
Absentee Ballot  
(FWAB)*

**Should be completed by:**

All UOCAVA voters as a backup absentee ballot should they not receive their ballot by 30 days before the election.

**Allows voters to:**

Vote in all Federal elections. Some States allow the FWAB to be used for State and local elections or as a simultaneous application for voter registration and write-in absentee ballot.

FVAP has created Online Assistants that automate and simplify the process of filling out the FPCA and FWAB.

- ✓ The Online Assistants offer point-and-click assistance and produce printable forms that eliminate legibility errors.
- ✓ The Online Assistants also produce a postage-paid template that then may be printed onto an envelope and mailed.

The screenshot shows the FVAP website interface for the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot. The header includes the FVAP logo and the text "FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" and "Voting Help For Uniformed Service Members, Their Families, & Citizens Living Outside The U.S.". A navigation bar contains links for "START OVER", "FVAP HOME", and "CONTACT FVAP". The main heading is "Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for Absentee Ballot". On the left, a sidebar menu lists steps: "Complete the Form", "Eligibility", "State", "Jurisdiction", "My Information", "Voting Residence" (highlighted), "Mailing Address", "Method To Receive Ballot", "Additional Information", and "Print and Finish". The main content area is titled "Uniformed Services Member > California > Orange" and "Voting Residence (Help)". It contains several input fields: "Street Address (required)" with the value "122 Maple Terrace", "City, Town, or Village (required)" with the value "Mayville", "County (required)" with a dropdown menu showing "- select -" and a link "look up your county", "State (required)" with the value "California", and "Zip Code (required)" with an empty field and a link "look up your zip code". Below these fields, there is a note: "Don't know your zip code? Look up your ZIP44 zip code from the United States Postal Service. Note: ZIP+4 format is requested." A large text area for "If you have a Rural Route (R.R.) mailing address as your legal voting residence, you must provide detailed directions to its physical location." is present. At the bottom, there are "< Back" and "Continue >" buttons. The footer includes the website addresses "www.usa.gov | www.defenselink.mil | www.americasupportsyou.mil" and a link "About FVAP | News | Disclaimers".

## How to Fill Out the FPCA or FWAB Using the Online Assistants:

### ***“Click, Print, Send”***

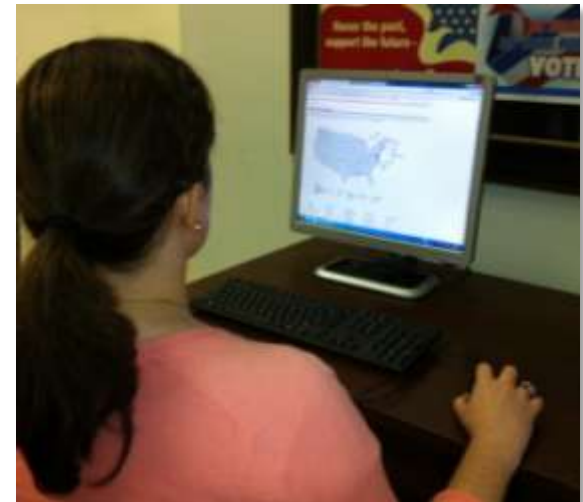
1. **Click:**
  - ✓ Direct applicants to FVAP’s website; applicants select their State and fill out the required information (see following slides for general guidelines).
2. **Print:**
  - ✓ When finished, applicants must print and sign their FPCA or FWAB.
3. **Send:**
  - ✓ After signing their form, applicants should follow their State’s specific guidelines for returning their completed FPCA or FWAB by mail, email, or fax.

*Note: The Online Assistants are used to fill out the FPCA or FWAB. Upon completion, **voters must print, sign, then mail or otherwise submit the forms** to their local election officials.*



## Benefits of the Online Assistants:

1. Generate only fields required by the applicant's State, decreasing confusion over voter information requirements.
2. Provide up-to-date State information such as important State voting deadlines.
3. Provide an output package that includes applicant's completed FPCA or FWAB, instructions for submitting, and envelope template.





# Completing the FPCA: Classification

Block 1 on the FPCA asks applicants to indicate their *UOCAVA* voter classification. This classification determines in which contests their election jurisdiction will allow them to vote.

<p><b>Classification</b> Make only 1 selection.</p> <p>(In most States, you must be absent from your voting district to use this form)</p>	1	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty OR <input type="checkbox"/> I am their spouse or dependent.</p> <hr/> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I intend to return.</p> <hr/> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S., and I do not intend to return.</p> <hr/> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a U.S. citizen otherwise granted military/overseas voting rights under State law (check the Voting Assistance Guide).</p>
--	---	--

- ✓ Applicants should select the classification that best represents their current situation.

Because Jim is temporarily outside the U.S., he should select the box indicating he is living outside the U.S., but intends to return.

# Completing the FPCA: Political Party

In order to participate in partisan primary elections, most States require voters to indicate a political party preference. Voters should refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for their State's specific requirements.

Political Party	2	To vote in primary elections, your State may require you to specify a political party: <b>Abcdef Party</b>
-----------------	---	--

- ✓ Applicants that do not want to be affiliated with a political party should write "no party" in Block 2.
- ✓ Note that if applicants enter "no party," they will still receive the November General Election ballot.

Jim indicates that he would like to be affiliated with the "Abcdef Party."

# Completing the FPCA: Voter Information

Requirements for voter information differ by State, refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for State-specific guidelines.

Your legal name	3.	Last name	<b>Jones</b>	Suffix	
		First name	<b>James</b>	Middle name	<b>Larry</b>
		Previous name (if applicable)			
Identification <small>Some States require your full SSN. Check your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov</small>	4.	Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Race	See instructions on back
		Birth date	<b>11</b> M <b>29</b> D <b>1985</b> Y Y		
		State Driver's License or ID	<b>A13156749394</b>		
	OR Social Security Number				
Contact information <small>Include international prefixes. No DSN number.</small>	5.	Telephone	<b>+011-44-2014-035-4777</b>		
		Fax	<b>+011-44-2014-035-4700</b>		
		Email	<b>j.l.jones85@hawkstooth.com</b>		
		Alternate Email			

✓ **Note:** Jim should provide his full legal name (James Larry Jones).

To help local election officials get in contact with Jim if they have any questions about his FPCA, he should provide his telephone number, fax number, and email address.

# Completing the FPCA: Ballot Receipt

States' laws differ as to how blank ballots can be delivered to voters. All States will send ballots via mail; however, States differ as to which electronic methods can be used: email, online download, and fax.

Ballot receipt	6	I prefer to receive my ballot, as permitted by my State, by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Email/Online	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Mail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Fax
(rank from 1 -3 in order of preference; be sure appropriate contact information is provided above)					

- ✓ Applicants should rank order their preferences for receiving their blank ballot.
- ✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see what methods are permitted by an applicant's State.
- ✓ If an applicant wants to receive a ballot via email or fax, he or she must provide appropriate contact information in Block 5 (email address or fax number).

Jim indicates that his first preference is to receive his absentee ballot by email, since his State allows this. Note that he should check that he has provided his email address in Block 5.

# Completing the FPCA: Voting Residence

A local election official needs an applicant's voting residence address in order to confirm the applicant's voting precinct. The address must be for a residence (i.e., not a P.O. box).

U.S. address for voting purposes  Usually your last U.S. residence or your legal U.S. residence. See instructions.	7	Street Address (not P.O. Box) <b>122 Maple Terrace</b>		Apt. #	
		City/Town/Village <b>Mayville</b>			
		County <b>Orange</b>	State <b>CA</b>	Zip Code <b>9 5 5 5 1</b>	-

**For Uniformed Service Members**, their voting residence should be where they last resided prior to entering military service OR the address that they have since claimed as their legal residence. The State on the Service Member's Leave and Earnings statement is often his or her State of residence.

**Spouses of Uniformed Service Members** do not assume the residency of the active-duty spouse upon marriage. However, if they meet the residency requirements, they can opt to update their state of residency.

**For overseas citizens**, their voting residence is in the State or territory where they last resided immediately prior to departing the U.S., regardless of time elapsed, intent to return, or presence of a physical residence.

Jim should vote absentee in California, since it is where he had his last legal residence before departing for England.

# Completing the FPCA: Mailing Address

Voters should enter their mailing address.

<p>Address where you live now</p> <p>This is different from above. Your voting materials will be sent here, unless you specify a forwarding address in Box 9</p>	<div>8</div>	100 FVAP Lane, #5A
		London W1P7HR
		England

- ✓ Remind applicants to notify their local election official if their address changes before the election to ensure their local election office has the correct contact information.

Jim enters his current mailing address.

# Completing the FPCA: State Requirements

In Block 9, applicants should include any additional information required by their State. For example, some States require overseas citizens to include information such as the length of time they resided in that State, complete information on where they were last registered to vote, **or passport number**.

<p>Additional requirements for your State</p> <p>Such as: mail forwarding address, additional phone, or other State required information. See your State's pages in the Voting Assistance Guide on <a href="http://FVAP.gov">FVAP.gov</a></p>	<p>9</p>	

✓ Applicants may also include additional information that would assist the local election official in accepting the application or sending their ballot, **such as a forwarding address**.

✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* for State-specific requirements.

**Jim's State does not have any specific requirements for this block, so Jim leaves the block blank.**

# Completing the FPCA: Affirmation and Witness

After applicants read the affirmation, they should sign and date their form.

<p><b>Affirmation (REQUIRED):</b> I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine on active duty or an eligible spouse or dependent of such a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.</li> <li>• I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote in the requested jurisdiction.</li> <li>• I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated.</li> <li>• I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S.</li> <li>• My signature and date herein indicate when I completed this document.</li> <li>• The information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.</li> </ul>		<p>Signature <u>James Jones</u> <small>Please sign, and send in.</small></p> <p>Today's date <u>08</u> / <u>11</u> / <u>2012</u></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p><small>Witness signature / date if required by your State. See the Voting Assistance Guide on FVAP.gov.</small></p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Date _____</p> </div>
---	--	---

- ✓ By signing the FPCA, you are verifying your information under the penalty of perjury.
- ✓ Refer to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if an applicant's State requires a witness signature.


Jim signs and dates the form. His State does not require a witness, so he leaves that portion of the application blank.



# Completing the FPCA: Submission Methods

Completed FPCAs should be submitted to the applicant's local election official for processing.

- ✓ All States and territories accept the FPCA via mail.
  - ✓ Mailing addresses for local election officials are available in the *Voting Assistance Guide*.
  - ✓ The FPCA can be mailed postage paid through the U.S. Postal Service, Military Postal Service, or State Department pouch mail. The postage-paid envelope template is produced by the Online Assistant and is also available at <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/returnenvelope.pdf>.

<p>NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS</p> <p>James Larry Jones USS FVAP FPO AE 54321</p>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"><p>US POSTAGE PAID 39 USC 3406</p><p>PAR AVION</p></div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"><p><b>OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL - FIRST-CLASS MAIL</b></p></div> <p>NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0</p> <p>TO: <u>Orange Registrar of Voters</u> <u>1300 S. Grande Ave Bldg. C</u> <u>Santa Ana, CA 92705-4434</u></p>		


# Completing the FPCA: Submission Methods

Some States and territories will accept the FPCA via email and/or fax.

- ✓ Check the *Voting Assistance Guide* to see if the applicant's State will accept the form by email or fax.
- ✓ The Online Assistant will produce an email and/or fax cover sheet if online or faxed submissions are allowed by the applicant's State.

Email FPCA to this address

Fax FPCA to this number



Automated Register, Request and Receive Ballot Process (R3)  
Official Election Materials - Electronic Transmission Sheet (FWAB)  
Transmission (Cover) Sheet from Absentee Voter to Election Official

<b>To:</b>	
City/County	Morris County Clerk
Board Of Elections	
State	New Jersey
LEO Email	jramhall@clerk.morris.nj.us
Fax Number	973 285-6136
<b>From:</b>	
Last Name	McDonnell
First Name	Kathleen
Middle Name	
Telephone Number	
Fax Number	
Email Address	

Number of pages being transmitted, including this sheet: \_\_\_\_\_  
Check [www.fvap.gov/contact/forfax.htm](http://www.fvap.gov/contact/forfax.htm) for international fax numbers

Fax/Email Cover Sheet

BEFORE MAILING, each applicant should review the following

- ✓ Completed the forms completely and legibly
- ✓ Applied to the correct jurisdiction
- ✓ Indicated their party preference for a primary election
- ✓ Signed their FPCA

*Incomplete or illegible FPCAs may result in being unable to receive or cast your ballot.*

# Completing the FPCA: After Submission

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- ✓ After receiving an FPCA, a local election official will process the form and verify the applicant's eligibility.
- ✓ Applicants are encouraged to call, fax, or email their local election official to verify that their application has been received.
- ✓ Applicants should receive their regular State absentee ballot from the local election official in time for them to vote and return the ballot by the State's deadline.

*Voters who have submitted an FPCA and have not received their absentee ballot by 30 days before the election should submit the FWAB.*

The **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot** (FWAB) allows *UOCAVA* voters who have not yet received their absentee ballot to vote in elections for Federal offices.

Similar to the FPCA, the instructions for completing the FWAB and the uses of the FWAB **differ across States**, so it is important to refer applicants to the *Voting Assistance Guide* to ensure that they complete it correctly.

[illegible]

<b>Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot</b>	
President/Vice President:	
U.S. Senator(s):	
U.S. Representative/Delights** Resident Commissioner**:	
<p>* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote only for President/Vice President and Delegate.</p> <p>** Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner in the Congress.</p>	
<b>Addendum</b>	
<p>Some states allow the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas civilian voters in elections other than general elections or for offices other than Federal offices. Consult your state section in the Voting Assistance Guide on F-GDP.gov to determine your state's policy. If you are eligible to use this ballot to vote for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example, Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.) and the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.</p>	
<b>Office / Ballot Initiative</b>	<b>Candidate Name, Party Affiliation, or Initiative Vote</b>

Standard Form 160-010-001

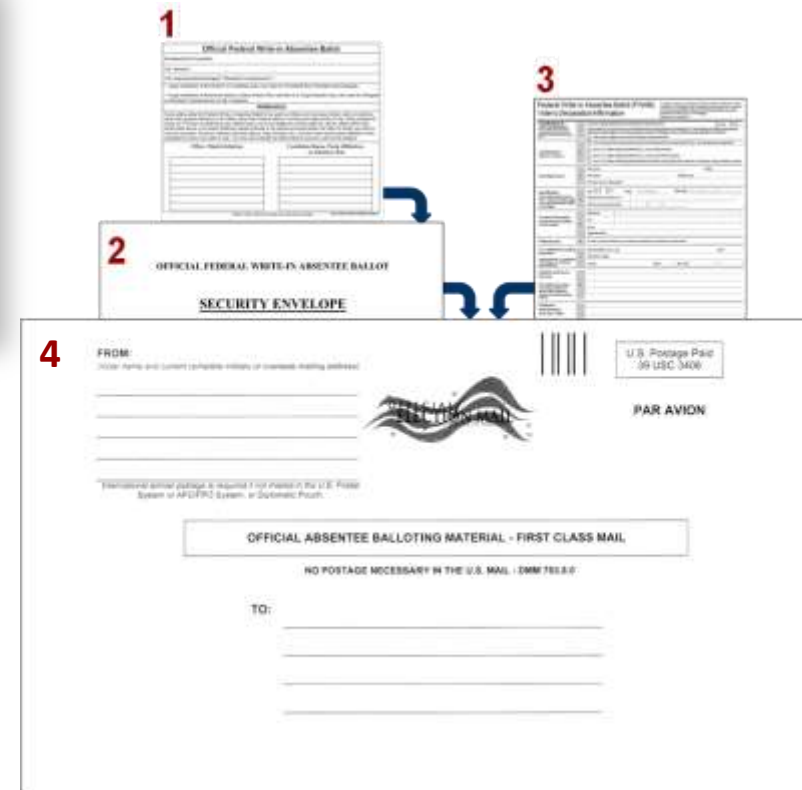
# Submitting the FWAB: Submission Modes

Completed FWABs should be submitted to the applicant's local election official for processing. All States and territories will accept the FWAB via mail.

To mail the FWAB, the voter should insert the voted ballot (1) into the security envelope (2).

Then, the sealed security envelope (2) and the declaration/affirmation (3) should be placed in the pre-paid mailing envelope (4).

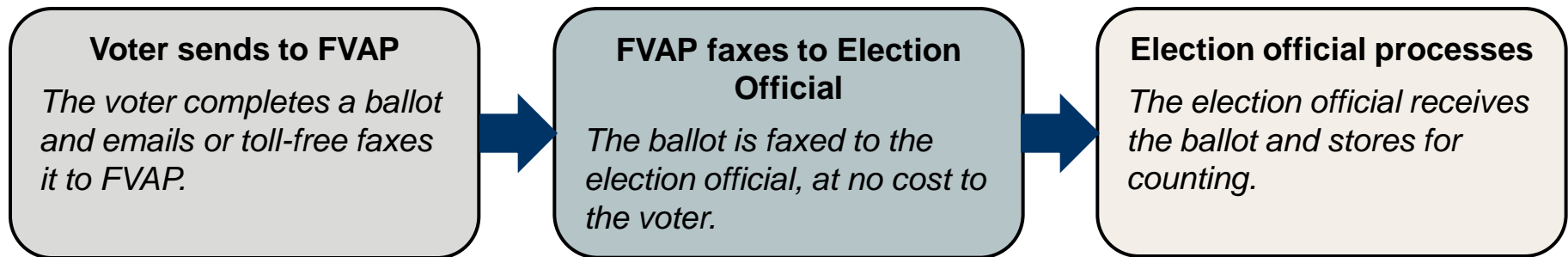
- ✓ Mailing addresses for local election officials are available in the *Voting Assistance Guide*.
- ✓ The FWAB can be mailed postage paid through the U.S. Postal Service, Military Postal Service, or State Department pouch mail. The postage-paid envelope template is produced by the Online Assistant and is also available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



# FVAP Resources: Electronic Transmission Service

To help voters avoid the costs associated with long-distance faxes, FVAP provides an Electronic Transmission Service (ETS) that allows UOCAVA balloting materials (including the FPCA and FWAB) to be faxed **at no cost**. Additionally, if a voter does not have access to a fax machine, the voter may email his or her materials to FVAP and FVAP will fax the materials to the local election official, if allowed by the voter's State.

Here's how it works:



## ETS Resources:

- ✓ ETS Fax: <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/tollfreefax.html>
- ✓ ETS Email: [ETS@fvap.gov](mailto:ETS@fvap.gov)
- ✓ ETS Cover Sheet: <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/coversheet.pdf>

Note: Not all States allow absentee ballots to be delivered or returned via fax. Check the applicant's State's guidelines.

# Completing the FWAB: A Common Concern

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*What should Jim do if he receives his State absentee ballot after he has already submitted a FWAB?*

- ✓ Voters in this situation should *a/ways* complete their State absentee ballot and return it to their local election official. If the absentee ballot is received by the State's deadline, it will be counted instead of the FWAB.
- ✓ Some States allow absentee ballots from *UOCAVA* voters to be counted even if they are received after Election Day.

*Answers to additional FAQs may be found at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)*



# Voting Emphasis Weeks

	Your role:	Suggested activities:
<b>Overseas Citizens Voters Week</b> (June 28 to July 7, 2012)	Encourage overseas citizens to complete and submit the FPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Have copies of the FPCA and <i>Voting Assistance Guide</i> available for citizens</li> <li>✓ Put up posters encouraging citizens to vote</li> <li>✓ Direct citizens to the FPCA Online Assistant to register to vote and request an absentee ballot</li> <li>✓ Conduct a non-partisan voting workshop or voter registration drive</li> <li>✓ Enlist the help of overseas citizens organizations</li> <li>✓ Plan your events around the 4th of July</li> <li>✓ Send pictures of your event to the Chief Voting Action Officer and FVAP</li> </ul>
<b>Absentee Voting Week</b> (Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, 2012)	Encourage overseas citizens to return their voted absentee ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ask citizens if they've received their ballots. If not, direct them to the FWAB Online Assistant or provide them with a FWAB and encourage them to fill it out and submit it</li> <li>✓ Use media outlets to encourage citizens to return their absentee ballots</li> <li>✓ Enlist the help of other VAOs or organizations to conduct events to encourage citizens to return their absentee ballots</li> <li>✓ Put up posters telling citizens how to reach you for voting assistance</li> </ul>

If you have questions or concerns, you can contact FVAP:

Questions? Contact FVAP!		
Email	<a href="mailto:vote@fvap.gov">vote@fvap.gov</a>	Email FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions
Toll-Free	800-438-VOTE (8683)	Call FVAP for assistance filling out forms or additional questions
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP">Facebook.com/DoDFVAP</a>	FVAP and <i>UOCAVA</i> updates
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/fvap">Twitter.com/fvap</a>	

## **Embassy Contact Info:**

**VoteNassau@state.gov**

**ACSNassau@state.gov**

**Voting Officer:**

**Joanna Weinz**

**Voting Assistant:**

**Barbara Wallace**

**Phone: 322-1181**

Congratulations on completing this presentation and your desire to vote!

## **You should now be able to:**

- ✓ Understand and explain the *UOCAVA* process to other voters.
- ✓ Help voters choose the right form, fill it out, and return it properly.
- ✓ Know what resources to check for specific questions.